



COUNTY OF DELAWARE
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING
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PARKS AND RECREATION
ANNE P. STAUFFER
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Delaware County Park Board Meeting
May 14, 2025
12:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

- **Board:** John McMullan; Kathy Lopez; Barron Lacy; Kelly Johnson; Mary Coniglio; Meagan Hopkins-Doerr; Michelle Alvare
- **Department of Parks and Recreation:** Anne Stauffer, Interim Director of Parks & Recreation; Beth Chapman, Marketing & Communications Manager
- **County:** Steven Beckley, Infrastructure Planner, Open Space and Trails
- **Not present:** Stephanie Gaboriault; Trish McFarland; Parker Snowe
- Minutes by Carol Tustin
- **Call to Order:** 12:03 pm

Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2025 were approved by the board.

Call to Order..... Chair John McMullan

- The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm by John McMullan, Park Board Chair.

Interim Directors report..... Anne Stauffer

- Anne shared preliminary information about the upcoming budget cycle. She noted that it would be a tight year and budget season would begin soon. An updated comparative analysis, which was originally conducted by Anne Toole in 2021 will be shared prior to the next meeting, including updated figures from 2021 to 2025. Delaware County currently recovers approximately 18% of the Parks operational costs. This is below the national average of 25% and below the average for counties with populations over 250,000, which is 20%. The Park Board discussed realistic cost recovery expectations and the need for creative revenue generating strategies. A table of amenities available for permits will be emailed to the board.
- There was also a discussion about park fees. A finance subcommittee will be reconvened to support Anne in reviewing peer county fees and advising her on budget development. John will solicit volunteers by email. Rose Tree Park was highlighted as a potential site for implementing event fees. Pavilion rentals and large events are

currently free; implementing fees for 2026 would require board action at the next meeting to allow for sufficient notice to organizers. The current permitting process only grants official permits in January of each year, although “save the date” placeholders are common. Nonprofits are currently the only entities permitted to hold events, but discussion raised the possibility of extending this to private groups, which would require policies around scheduling, fees, and maintenance, especially given unionized staff schedules. Mary and Meagan emphasized that if fees are implemented, revenue should return to the parks department rather than going into the County’s general fund. Discussions included the possibility of a revenue-sharing model or designated fund for parks. Anne noted that capital projects are approved through the County’s Capital Projects Committee and are competitive across departments.

Old Business

- Kathy Lopez attended and provided public comment at the Council meeting where the Delco Woods Master Plan was presented. Short-term plans include paving the parking lot on Reed Road and creating a half-mile loop trail with green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) features. A longer-term goal is a broader urban trails plan, for which an LSA grant application has been submitted. Volunteer involvement was discussed. Meagan and the Marple Shade Tree Commission are active in maintenance and invasive species removal. Anne noted that volunteer management requires more staffing than currently available. A potential “Friends of Delco Woods” group was discussed. Kathy and Eric Tamulonis PLA, ASLA, LEED AP of Delco Woods Advisory Committee are exploring the creation of a county-wide parks conservancy, with interest from the Delco Foundation.
- There were a few Earth Month events that were discussed. Native plantings and trash pickup events were held at Kent Park and the former Little Flower property (New County Park). The “Invasive-Replace-ive” event officially launched the unnamed park at Little Flower property (New County Park) and included a tree giveaway and invasive species education workshop. Collaboration included Parks & Recreation, The Conservation District, Watershed Stewards, DCNR, and statewide partners. Middletown Township’s Community Day was canceled due to forecast but ultimately had good weather.
- Sponsorships are being solicited for the Summer Concert Series and Festival of Lights. The Festival of Lights is not part of the operating budget and previously relied on COVID-relief funds and the Collaboration Fund. The board is asked to help solicit sponsorships. Materials were distributed and will also be emailed.

New Business

- Members of Kent Dog Park proposed building a 10’ x 10’ x 18” deep dog pool to replace frequently broken plastic ones. Anne intervened when construction began without formal approval. The board affirmed that:
 - A formal proposal is required.
 - Legal review is needed by the County solicitor.

- A maintenance plan must be submitted.
- Input must be gathered from all dog park users via flyer.

Chris Cook from the Conservation District may need to review the design due to its size. The proposal will be presented at the July 9 Park Board meeting.

- The Sustainability Conference 2025 will run virtually all week with an in-person day on Saturday, June 14 at The Lazaretto. Senior Games events that week will be considered part of the conference due to their alignment with health and community goals.
- Kathy Lopez and Eric Tamulonis are researching models for a county-wide “Friends of” group or “Friends of Rose Tree” group or conservancy. Examples would be Fairmount Conservancy and Piedmont Park. Kathy will follow up after her meeting with Eric and report back in July.

County Steven Beckley

- Steven Beckley gave a trails update.
 - Middletown Trail: Knowlton Road parking lot to be closed for expansion; popular trail will face temporary overflow issues.
 - Litigation Update: Awaiting Commonwealth Court ruling on property compensation.
 - Lenni Trail: Section 2 under engineering review; funding being pursued through unexpended TRID funds.
 - Chester Creek Trail: Mount Road parking considered but deprioritized for now.

Open Discussion and Public Comment

- Senior Games are underway. Coordination for the games has shifted to Parks following the retirement of the COSA Director.
- Rose Tree Park Amphitheater Concert stage and bathrooms are being refreshed in time for the 50th season.
- Native planting at Kent Park scheduled for May 20th, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

• Meeting adjourned: 1:05 pm

Meetings:

January 8th, Hunt Club, hybrid
 March 12th, Zoom
 May 14th, Hunt Club, hybrid
 July 9th, Hunt Club, hybrid
 September 10th, Hunt Club, hybrid
 November 12th, Hunt Club, hybrid

Park Visits:

February 12th – Clayton Park Gold Course, snowed out
 April 10th – Kent Park, Clifton Heights/Upper Darby
 June 19th – Juneteenth at Rose Tree Park
 August 13th – Briarcliffe Building, Darby Township
 October 8th – Catania Park
 December TBD – Rose Tree Festival of Lights